

NEWSLETTER

Registered Address: P.O. Box 1004, Preston, 3072.

Registered Number A0006535U

PRESIDENT:
BILL SAUNDERS

ISSUE NO. 188

OCTOBER 2018



Information:
Phone: (03) 9478-0269

E-mail:
prestongardenclub@hotmail.com

Web Address:
www.prestongardenclub.org.au

PRESTON GARDEN CLUB COMMITTEE 2018/2019

President:

Bill Saunders
9478-0269

Vice Presidents:

Robert Strugnell
Wayne Hurley
9464 5757

Secretary:

Vacant

Treasurer:

John Mathie
9458 1632

Committee Members:

Pat Kilpatrick
9460 1951
Margaret Trewella
9460 4361
Daksha Singh
9471 2192
Helen Salisbury
9481 6345

SPRING SHOW

Our Spring Show is on Saturday 27th October in Preston City Hall. Read your schedule carefully, if you have any questions, speak to Bill our Show Manager or Phone 9478 0269.

Make sure that you phone your entries in by 9 pm on Thursday 25th October, do not leave it to the last moment to phone.

We aim to be in the hall Friday to set up, from 9am. We need a few

members to assist in marking out the tables.

On show day we need volunteers throughout the day. During judging - card writing (at least 10 people needed), selling raffle tickets, afternoon teas, packing up at the end, all assistance is appreciated. If you would like to help and can spare a hour or so just see Bill at the meeting or phone him later. Bill can explain what is required and he will point you to somewhere to help out.

We are looking for home made scones for the afternoon teas. If you can help out either on the Friday or on show day, let Bill know. Every little bit helps.

A volunteers list will go around the room at the October meetings. Add your name wherever you can help out.



YOUR SPRING GARDEN

For The Garden of Your Daily Living

Plant Three Rows of Peas

1. Peace of Mind
2. Peace of Heart
3. Peace of Soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce Really Love One Another

No Garden is Complete Without Turnips

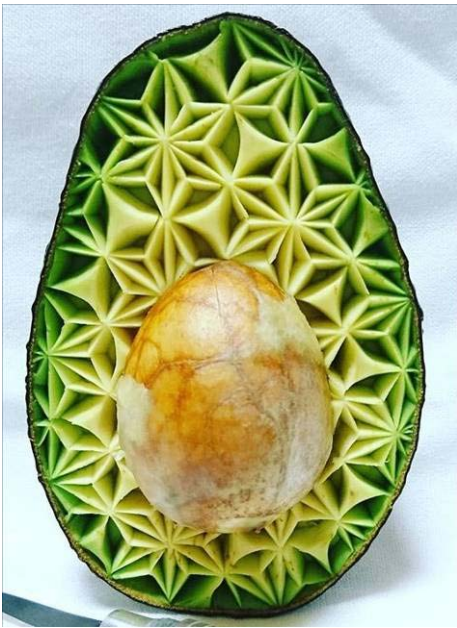
1. Turnips for Meetings
2. Turnips for Service
3. Turnips to Help One Another

To Conclude Our Garden We Must Have Thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

FOOD IS ART



Avocado



Zucchini



Broccoli



Mushroom



Radish



Carrot



Apple

MISTAKES IN GROWING CACTI AND SUCCULENTS

1. Overwatering

Overwatering is one of the most common problems when growing cacti and succulents. As a general rule, plants should be watered in the summer on a 10 to 14 day intervals in well-drained soils. More often if the soil is sandy and less often if the soil is heavier. In the winter, irrigation should be reduced because most cacti go dormant.

Tip for the summer: Learn about your plant water needs by checking the root zone 5 to 7.5 cm below the surface before watering. It should be dry. If in doubt, don't water.

2. Underwatering

"Cacti do not need water" is a myth. They need water to live just like any other plant. Temperature has an effect on the rate of desiccation. Many cacti and succulents do not need to be watered over the winter, but is best to give them a little bit of water to prevent the loss of roots. If a plant's roots have dried up, water it very lightly until roots take hold again.

3. Not Providing the Proper Amount of Sun Light

Just because cacti and succulents are often found in arid habitats, doesn't mean they can be placed or planted in full sun. Many species grow where they get a degree of shelter from rocks, larger plants and the environment. Growers should be cautious as they place their plants from a sheltered position into more light. Young barrel and columnar cacti and some Yuccas can be sunburn and the scars are permanent.

Tip: Use a shade cloth (30%) to protect plants from the fierce summer sun. On the other hand, not exposing the plants to enough

sun light creates pale, sickly, or abnormally-looking plants. Rotate plants often to expose the whole plant to the same amount of light.

4. Failure to Use the Proper Soil Mix

Many beautiful and inexpensive plants from local nurseries are planted in a peat-based medium. This medium is hard to water correctly and inevitably becomes too wet or too dry. We recommend using a commercial cactus potting soil, but mixed with something like perlite, sand, or small gravel. Good soil mixes for Lithops include 10 to 20% potting soil and 90 to 80% gravel. For most cacti and succulents a 30 to 40% potting soil and 70 to 60% gravel is recommended. A 50% potting soil with 50% perlite is a good mix for succulents like Sanseverias, small Agaves, and Yuccas. A 50 to 60% potting soil and 50 to 40% gravel is suggested for leafy succulents like Adeniums.

Tip: Soil used for cacti and succulents must have some draining material.

5. Fertilizing Improperly

A common cacti and succulent faux-pas is the idea that they don't need fertilizer! Like any other plant, they need a variety of macro and micro-nutrients to survive. While they get along just fine without it, sometimes a bit of fertilizer can be the key to having lush and green plants.

6. Ignoring the Plant's Requirements for Growth

It is very important to know the growth habits of your plants. For example, most cacti and succulents should be grown at temperatures between 24 to 32 C, and some may require trace minerals in the soil. These can be provided by fertilizing, but the common fertilizers must be used appropriately, usually at 0.25

strength, or a slow-release product should be used.

Tip: A fertilizer for tropical plants is perfect. If your plant is variegated (light or pale green tinging towards white or silver), use a fertilizer with a lower content of nitrogen.

7. Leaving Plants Root-bound too long

The roots must have enough room to grow and thrive. The roots of plants that have grown in a pot for a long time completely fill the entire pot in a tight mass. This creates desiccation problems because water may have a hard time penetrating the mass. The roots also cease to acquire nutrients and the plant could perish.

Tip: Repot when roots begin to show through the draining hole.

8. Poor Planning When Landscaping

Landscaping with cacti and succulents is becoming very popular, but poor planning may result in a disaster. Some key elements for success include building a raised bed by mounding the soil, or even constructing a large in-ground planter. This is similar to a raised vegetable planter. The bed should be elevated 20 to 30 cm above the surrounding area. A raised bed promotes drainage, an absolute if you want to be successful with a variety of cacti and succulents. The soil mix must be fast draining, but not too lean. A combination of expanded shale or pea gravel, with sharp sand and compost is a good general purpose blend. Test your blend. Water should not stand on the surface more than a few seconds before entering the soil. Plant early in the spring if possible, and be prepared to shelter plants under netting until they are fairly well established.

Tip: Choosing the right landscape plants is best done with advice from those who have had success.

9. Planting Incompatible Plants in a Dish Garden

For a dish garden use cacti and succulents with similar growing conditions. Use plants with watering at the same time such as ball type like Echinocactus, and taller growing Echinocereus, or maybe succulents with elongated or thick fleshy leaves. Use plants with the same growing seasons such as Haworthias and Aeonium for winter time, or Crassula with Sempervivum or Echeveria.

10. Burning Plants Due to Phototoxicity

Overall, cactus and succulents do not get infested by insects (such as scale) as often as other plants. However, they are susceptible and on occasion we must treat them with insecticides when manual removal of bugs is not enough. Plants treated with chemicals must be protected from the sun. Otherwise they will get burned easily, especially with products that contain oils.

Tip: Isolate plants with scale or other insects, and protect them from the sun.

Pl@ntNet

Here is something new to try and a way to identify plants. A web site called Pl@ntNet is a tool to help to identify plants using photos.

It is organize in different databases. Please choose the one corresponding to your location.



<https://identify.plantnet-project.org/>

GEOMETRY OF PLANTS



Lobelia



Pelecypora aselliformis



Crassula buddha's temple plant



Thinking cactus

MEMBERS NEWS



Happy birthday to you!
Happy birthday to you!

October: William Nelson

We welcome 3 new members who recently joined, Simone from Macleod, Kay from Preston and Richard from Northcote.

We heard Glenda & Jack Edgar were in a car accident over two weeks ago. A bit bruised and broken from their ordeal. Wish them both a speedy recovery and see them both back to the meetings soon.

GARDEN VISIT

One of our new members, Richard, has opened his garden for members to visit. Make your own way to 44 Thomson Street, Northcote, 11.00 am on Monday 12th November to view his garden. You may BYO lunch and seat, chat & eat in the garden if you like.

COMING EVENTS

October 27th. Preston Garden Club Spring Show. Saturday 27th October in Preston City Hall. Open 2 to 6pm.

November 4th. Victorian Iris Society - Main Show. Entry Adults \$6 Children free. Iris Rhizomes, Afternoon Teas, Souvenirs, Literature & Catalogues. Location Mount Waverley Community Centre, 47 Miller Crescent Mount Waverley (MW 70 E1). Contact Shirley senisbet@netspace.net.au

November 10 to 11. Times Sat 1pm-5pm, Sun 10am-4.30pm. Rose Society of Victoria - Annual Rose Show. Entry \$5, Conc \$4. Rose advice, information, plant sales, refreshments, guest speakers. Location Mt Waverley Community centre, Miller Cresc Mt Waverley (mel 61 C12). Contact www.rosesocietyvic.org.au

FIND THE WORD

Well, how did you go with finding the word in the last newsletter? The word is –

PEELED

The word this month has 6 letters. What could it be?

Look at the four pictures for the clue. Answer next newsletter.



MONTHLY COMPETITION

October 24th: One Stem Iris.

November 28th: No Competition – Presentation of Awards.

MONTHLY MEETING

October 24th: Insects in the Garden - Katrina Sorstner.

November 28th: Christmas Breakup.